



Rethinking City and Governance in Terms of Sustainable Development in the Centennial of the Republic¹

Cumhuriyetin 100. Yılında Kent ve Yönetişimi Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Açısından Yeniden Düşünmek

Mustafa Demirkol² 

Öz

Bu çalışma kentler, yönetim ve sürdürülebilir kalkınma arasındaki ilişkiyi incelemektedir. Yerel yönetimlerin etkin hizmet sağlama ve kalkınmaya katkıda bulunma konusundaki önemini vurgulamaktadır. Çalışmada kent, kentleşme ve sürdürülebilir kalkınma kavramları ve bunlar arasındaki ilişki incelenmektedir. Kentleşme olgusunun, ekonomik büyüme ve demografik değişimler üzerindeki etkisi vurgulanarak tartışılmaktadır. Çalışmada nitel bir yöntem kullanılmış olup Türkiye'deki yerel yönetim mevzuatına dair kalkınma temelli bir içerik analizi yapılmaktadır. Çalışma ayrıca büyükşehir yönetimlerinin kentsel kalkınmadaki rolünü ve kalkınma odaklı mevzuat ihtiyacını vurgulamakta olup yerel yönetim kurumlarını düzenleyen mevzuatın ekonomik kalkınma ve sürdürülebilir uygulamalara öncelik verecek şekilde yeniden tasarlanması gerektiği önerisiyle sonuçlanmaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Şehir, Yönetişim, Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma, Büyükşehirler, Yerel Yönetimler, Kalkınma

ABSTRACT

This study analyses the relationship between cities, governance, and sustainable development. It emphasizes the importance of local governments in providing effective services and contributing to development. The study examines the concepts of city, urbanization, and sustainable development and the relationship between them. The impact of urbanization on economic growth and demographic changes is emphasized and discussed. The study employs a qualitative methodology and includes a development-based content analysis of local government legislation in Türkiye. The study also emphasizes the role of metropolitan governments in urban development and the need for development-oriented legislation and concludes with the suggestion that the legislation regulating local government institutions should be redesigned to prioritize economic development and sustainable practices.

Keywords: City, Governance, Sustainable Development, Metropolitan Cities, Local Governments, Development

¹ This study is derived from the author's doctoral thesis.

² **Corresponding Author:** Tekirdağ Namık Kemal Üniversitesi, İktisadi ve İdari Bilimler Fakültesi, Siyaset Bilimi ve Kamu Yönetimi Bölümü, Kamu Yönetimi Anabilim Dalı, mustafademirkol@nku.edu.tr, ORCID: 0000-0002-9860-8836



INTRODUCTION:

Depending on the increase in the population of cities, alternative searches have been made. One of the results of these searches is how cities are defined. Cities that exceed a certain population are called metropolitan cities (metropolitan). The two-tier administrative structure that has been in place in Türkiye since 1984 is the result of such a search. The reports of many international institutions and organizations such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the United Nations (UN), and the World Bank (World Bank) show that the urban population in the world is increasing day by day. Based on this observation, it can be said that studies on cities and urban governments are of utmost importance. As such, the management of local governments is also very important. The potential of a local government element and the legal legislation it is related to is decisive for a local government element to be able to provide an effective service in an area such as development.

This study focuses on the intricate relationship between cities, the management bodies of the city, and the concept of sustainable development. Its primary objective is to delve into how local governments can actively play a role in fostering the sustainable development of cities and, more importantly, how this involvement can be amplified. A central point highlighted throughout this research is the insufficient emphasis placed on sustainable development within the existing legal framework governing local governments in Türkiye. Consequently, the core emphasis of this study revolves around the pressing need to reassess and modernize these legal regulations to empower local governments to actively contribute to sustainable development.

The motivation behind conducting this study is closely tied to the rapid expansion and evolution of cities in Türkiye. This ongoing urban growth underscores the vital importance of local governments in driving sustainable development within these urban centers. Nevertheless, the existing legal guidelines fail to adequately prioritize sustainable development, limiting the capacity of local governments to make a meaningful impact in this regard. As such, this study underscores the urgency of revisiting and revising these legal regulations to empower local governments in their efforts to support sustainable development. Ultimately, this research can serve as a valuable resource and guide for local governments seeking to play a more substantial role in promoting the sustainable development of cities.

In the first chapter of the study, the concept of the city and its changes are briefly mentioned. In the second chapter, the concept of governance is mentioned as a management method. In the third chapter, the concepts of local governments and sustainable development are mentioned and the relationship between these two is given. In the fourth chapter, the position of municipalities as local government units in Türkiye is given. In the fifth chapter, the relationship between metropolitanization and sustainable development is explained. In the sixth and last chapters, the influence of regulations on organizational functioning is explained. The study employs a qualitative methodology and includes a development-based content analysis of local government legislation in Türkiye.

1. Definition and Transformation of City

Cities are important units that have long historical processes and harbor many social phenomena and events. The city does not have a single meaning or definition that will enable all of its appearances to be understood at once (Utandır Karaduman, 2023, p. 3). The concept of the city, which is the dominant form of settlement in the current century, is a concept that opens doors to many (Es & Ateş, 2004, p. 211). It is witnessed that the city is dealt with by disciplines such as history, sociology, economics, and politics (Wirth, 2002, p. 80). It is known that the concept of city in Turkish culture

was first used by the Karakhanids and Oghuz Turks after the eleventh century (Sümer, 1994, pp. 1-29). The concept of a city is a concept that has depth and change of meaning according to time and space. For example, in classical Greek philosophy, the concept of city (polis) is a concept related to citizenship. As such, it expresses certain civic rights and duties (Çaha, 2008, p. 10).

As a concept, a city refers to a large-scale settlement that is non-agricultural in terms of production, where the control and distribution functions of both non-agricultural production and agriculture-based production are located, and which has a large-scale, heterogeneous structure in terms of technological development (Kızılçelik-Erjem, 1992, p. 248). The existence of studies that view the structure, functioning, growth, environment, and social relations of people in cities and urbanization and urbanization processes as social phenomena is a very positive development in terms of understanding that the management issue is not a mechanical process, but on the contrary, a process that renews itself at every moment (Yılmaz & Çetin, 2006, p. 70).

Some definitions draw attention to the cultural dimension of the city. For example, the city can be defined as "the most important and largest physical product created by man to organize his life, and a structure that directs and surrounds human life... A place that shapes social life and relations between people and thus culture, where social distances are minimized and these relations gain the greatest intensity" (Cansever, 2009, pp. 103-105). In fact, it is possible to see the science of philosophy as "the child of the city" (Becermen, 2015, p. 10). In other words, cities are a kind of spatial settlements with an organized and dense population, with organic relations in the division of labor and based on specialization, where non-agricultural activities are generally carried out (Özcan, 2018, p. 33).

Ibn Khaldun (Haldun, 2004, p. 69) also defined the concept of city in terms of urban/urbanite (hadari) and rural/peasant (bedouin) identities. In this sense, it is witnessed that the concept of the city can even prepare the ground for the characterization of human beings. Cities are not only physical settlements but also cultural, political, and social spaces of production (Hergüner & Çankaya, 2023, p. 69).

There are also approaches based on the product in the definition of cities. The first thing that is observed with the formation of economic and population density in a place is the residual product. According to Harvey, if there is no geographical concentration of the socially residual product in a place, there is no urbanity there (Harvey, 2013, p. 216). The residual product used in this determination can be defined as "the value that serves the emergence of new products that are outside the biological, social, and cultural requirements to ensure the protection and reproduction of labor power in the context of a certain mode of production" (Özcan, 2018, p. 42).

In general terms, a city is a settlement whose population exceeds a certain density, whose economy is concentrated in non-agricultural areas and activities, and which provides services to those within its sphere of influence beyond its population (Keleş, 2016, pp. 109-101). The concept of the city in the modern sense first appears in Western Europe. This is because the modern city is directly related to industrialization (Yalçın, 2023, p. 169). Today's cities, which emerged in the process brought about by industrialization and modernization, are home to more than half of the world's population of approximately 8 billion people (Sümer, 2018, p. 517).

As cities have grown, they have started to be called by new names: Metropolitan Cities... As a concept, "metropolis", is derived from the combination of the words "metro", which means "main", "main", and "polis", which has been used in the sense of city since Ancient Greece, has been subjected to derivative uses such as "metropolis" and "metropolitan", and all of these concepts are used to distinguish large cities from other cities in terms of scale.

2. Governance As a Management Method

There is no doubt that the world is renewing itself every day, especially with technological developments (Uçar & Cansel, 2021, p. 60). Within this renewing process, we witness to new concepts. The concept of "governance" in the field of social science was first introduced by the World Bank in the Sub-Saharan Africa: From Crisis To Sustainable Growth Report (World Bank, 1989, p. 60). It can be said that this concept, which has recently gained a place in the field of administration, has emerged as a new search for the solution of important social, political, social, and economic problems related to public administration.

Considering that one of the most critical interventions of international relations, especially since the early 1990s, has been to strengthen democratic governments, it can be said that the concept is a kind of safety valve for the continuity of democratic governments (Santiso, 2002, p. 555). According to the World Bank, governance as a type of institution plays a critical role in economic development. As a matter of fact, for the World Bank, governance is one of the most important ways for countries to achieve continuous development targets (Küçük, 2023, p. 15).

The concept of governance seems to have expanded its use and sphere of influence over time. Moreover, today there are many areas of use such as intra-organizational governance, inter-organizational governance, economic governance, social governance, political governance, local governance, global governance, etc. can be given as examples of this situation. The most commonly attributed feature of the concept of governance, which has a large number of definitions and descriptions, is that it includes a multi-actor/partisan and participatory management approach.

The concept of governance, which is derived from the concept of to govern, basically refers to a modern management methodology based on an interaction formed by the principle of reciprocity in state and society relations (Eryılmaz, 2017, p. 59). It can be said that governance is the way in which the power of governance is used in the management of the economic and social resources of countries (İmamoğlu & Özdemir, 2023, p. 105). The essence of governance is cooperation and solidarity between public-private sector and civil society organisations. Therefore, governance emphasises a multi-actor management (Badem, 2023, p. 692).

To make a distinction between the concepts of government and governance; "government" refers to the functions and structure of public institutions and organizations, while "governance" refers to the way and manner in which the government conducts its business and operations (Frederickson, 2009). When considered in this context, it would be appropriate to state that governance is related to participation in the most basic sense. According to the OECD, the level of participation is defined in three stages: information, consultation, and active participation (OECD, 2001, p. 15-16).

Although it is difficult to make a precise definition of the concept of governance, the concept of governance is defined as participation, audit, total quality, equality, sustainability, transparency, democratic decision-making, openness in management, accountability, digital revolution, community empowerment, management ethics, decentralization, heterogeneity, competitiveness, rule of law, rules-limitation (Bovaird, 2005, pp. 220-221; Bovaird & Löffler, 2003, p. 322).

Platforms such as public hearings, meetings, elections, direct contact initiatives, etc. organized to ensure public participation in decision-making processes can be said to host the concept of governance (Bish, 2001). The governance gives more importance to local governments rather than centralization in the provision of public services. One of the areas where citizens create the most demand input at the point of access to public services is local governments. This is because local governments are the elements where the public is closest to the public institution. One of the most

frequently used concepts related to local governments is the concept of "subsidiarity" (Eryılmaz, 2017, p. 124).

The provision of public services by the public institutions closest to the citizens enables the demands, opinions, and audits of the public to be realized much faster and more effectively (Göküş, 2010, p. 611). As the comprehension of management has evolved, it has ushered in fresh tools and methodologies. In this timeframe, strategies like localisation, participation, governance, and 'New Public Management' have found significant and effective implementation (Yılmaz & Mecek, 2021, p. 244).

3. Local Governments and Sustainable Development

Local governments are public legal entities with a personality that are established to meet the common needs of local people living in a certain geographical area, their decision-making bodies are elected by the local people, their duties and powers are determined by law, they have their revenues and budgets, which have their organizational structure and personnel. With these qualities, local governments constitute one of the basic elements of a democratic government structure.

However, in addition to sociological factors, these administrations take place in almost every society to increase efficiency in the provision of local public services (Urhan, 2008, p. 85). The main motive in the search for restructuring is to adapt these institutions to the conditions of the day in the light of contemporary developments, to make them in line with the expectations of the people, and to provide better quality, fast, efficient, and effective services in a way that is sensitive to the demands. (Yaman & Özalp, 2023).

Local government is an autonomous form of government, which means that local people are governed by bodies elected by themselves (Tiyek, 2023, p. 12). It is a form of administration known as decentralization, which is formed as a result of the transfer of some powers of the central administration by law to be used on its behalf (Keleş, 2000, pp. 19-20). Today, local governments are discussed in terms of development and urbanization due to the nature of their functions and duties. One of the most important factors of this situation can be explained by the fact that local government units can be described as "economic dynamos". For example, İstanbul alone accounts for approximately 40% of the Turkish economy today. The city of İstanbul is governed by a total of 40 local government units, 39 districts, and 1 metropolitan municipality, each with its geographical authority and mandate.

For many years, experts across various fields, particularly economists, have delved into understanding the idea of development. Historically, it was equated mainly with economic expansion. The Industrial Revolution further tied the concept to increased productivity, enhanced production, and capital growth. However, contemporary economic thought has shifted this perspective. Today, while growth often refers to economic progression, the broader definition of development encompasses both economic and social advancements (Kaya, 2004, s. 25).

One of the basic concepts that is frequently discussed today is the concept of sustainable development (Yüksel and Barut 2023: 34). Although it is perceived as an economic concept at first glance, it falls within the field of study of many disciplines, especially environmental science and public administration (Sachs 2015, p. 21; Güneş & Coşkun, 2004,7 p. 9). Although it is widely used in the relevant literature, there is no consensus on the definition of the concept of sustainable development (Güneş, 2021, p. 83).

Although its use is becoming increasingly widespread in the relevant literature, the principle of sustainable development can remain on paper (Keleş, 2023, p. 29). For many years, experts across

various fields, particularly economists, have delved into understanding the idea of development. Historically, it was equated mainly with economic expansion. The Industrial Revolution further tied the concept to increased productivity, enhanced production, and capital growth. However, contemporary economic thought has shifted this perspective. Today, while growth often refers to economic progression, the broader definition of development encompasses both economic and social advancements (Çakılcıoğlu, 2002).

We witness the first mention of this notion in a report³ that is published by the World Commission on Environment and Development (TÇV, 1989). Nearly half a century has passed since the report was written, proving that its conclusions are well-founded. The report states that the developing world needs to improve its capacity to produce and manage urban infrastructure, services, and shelter in the next few years.

It also underlines that very few city governments in the developing world have the power, resources, and trained personnel to provide their rapidly growing populations with the land, services, and facilities such as clean water, sanitation, schools, and transport necessary for an adequate human life. The report suggests that governments should develop clear settlement strategies to guide the process of urbanization, relieve pressure on the largest urban centers, and establish smaller towns and cities, integrating them more closely with their rural hinterlands. Moreover, this is a state of nature in which metropolises have become megapolises. According to the report, good urban governance requires the distribution of funds, political power and personnel to those local authorities best placed to assess and manage local needs (UN. Secretary-General, 1987).

Sustainable development is an approach that carefully considers the needs of future generations while responsibly utilizing natural resources to fulfill today's requirements (Temizel, 2023, p. 233). The connection between sustainable development and local governments holds significant importance. Local governments are the key institutions responsible for overseeing the management of cities and towns, and they play a pivotal role in promoting sustainable development across economic, social, and environmental dimensions.

Local governments handle crucial aspects such as infrastructure, environmental regulations, transportation systems, and various urban services. The sustainability of these services is critical to meet the long-term demands of cities. For instance, a local government can contribute to sustainable development by both safeguarding the environment and reducing energy costs through the installation of energy-efficient lighting systems. This effort contributes to the overall sustainability of the city.

However, for local governments to effectively contribute to sustainable development, there must be a well-defined legal framework in place. In the case of Türkiye, the existing laws governing the activities of local governments do not place enough emphasis on sustainable development. Consequently, there's a need to review and update these legal regulations to empower local governments to play a more significant role in advancing sustainable development.

4. Municipalities as an Element of Local Government in Türkiye

Today, it is observed that relatively more democratic countries attach more value and importance to the issue of local government. In Türkiye, very serious initiatives have been taken in the last 20 years regarding local governments. In this process, Law No. 5393, Law No. 5216, and Law No. 5302 were enacted. In Türkiye, local government units include villages, special provincial administrations, and

³ Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future

municipalities. In some sources, municipal unions established to improve cooperation between these units are also considered as local government units (Koçak, 2019, p. 79). If we keep local government unions separate since there is no consensus on this issue, there are 5 types of municipal organizations: Metropolitan, Metropolitan District, Provincial, District, and Town Municipalities. The number of municipalities in Türkiye and their ratio to the country's population are as follows (<https://www.e-icisleri.gov.tr/Anasayfa/MulkildariBolumleri.aspx>, Last viewed: 04.10.2023):

Tablo 1: Number of Municipalities in Türkiye and Their Ratio to All Municipalities

Type	Number	Rate
Metropolitan Municipality	30	0,2%
Provincial Municipality	51	4%
Metropolitan District Municipality	519	37%
District Municipality	403	29%
Town Municipality	390	28%
Total	1393	100%

According to the report prepared by the Turkish Statistical Institute (TÜİK) based on the 2020 Address Based Population Registration System data, approximately 95% of the population is located within municipal boundaries (TÜİK, 2020). Therefore, the issue of municipalities and local governments is important for all citizens.

5. Metropolitanization and Sustainable Development

Nowadays, discussions about city governance often revolve around the themes of urbanization and progression. A prominent reason for this is the portrayal of large cities as the economic engines of their residing countries. Urbanization isn't merely an outcome but a fluid process, molding the setting it unfolds within. Urbanization can be described as a multifaceted socio-economic transformation, drawing people from the countryside to city landscapes, and turning rural sectors into urban hubs. This transition encompasses shifts in job types, lifestyle adaptations, and even cultural shifts, significantly altering both urban and rural community structures, as noted by National Research Council (2003). This phenomenon of urbanization, which is described as a dynamic process, has important consequences. An important consequence of urbanization is the quantitative increase in the number of urban settlements, geography, population density, and the number of urban dwellers compared to those living in rural areas.

There are several factors shaping the phenomenon of urbanization. The most notable of them include investments in housing and infrastructure made by both the public and private sectors, as well as spatial and urban planning. Cities become the hub of trade, transportation, and information movement as economic activity and innovation expand over time and concentrate there (Yavuz, 2017, p. 277). The vast majority of the human population lives in cities today. The majority of all consumption branches, especially energy, take place in urban areas (Wang et al, 2018). Due to this, cities are transformed into settings where top-notch private and public services are offered and some essential services are easier to access than in rural areas.

Rural and urban areas experience different social and demographic changes as a result of urbanization. Economic growth and urban transformation have historically been intertwined. The nineteenth and twentieth centuries saw significant urbanization, industrialization, and economic growth in Europe and North America (Bairoch, 1988). Given that urbanization is accelerated by economic growth, urbanization, and economic expansion are entwined.

People are drawn to cities that they believe will provide them with a variety of options, particularly in the industrial and service sectors, for things like education and work. In general, urbanization has benefited economic expansion, the fight against poverty, and the advancement of society. According to Grubler et al. (2012), cities account for the production of about 80% of the world's gross domestic product (GDP).

The correlation between urbanization and economic growth has long been on the rise. This trend shows that as economic development increases, urbanization tends to increase, and as urbanization increases, the level of economic development generally tends to increase (Özdem, 2008, p. 59). Some regions are exceptions to this general observation. For example, when the relationship between urbanization and economic mobility in sub-Saharan Africa is examined, the current situation shows that despite economic contraction in the region, the process of urbanization in sub-Saharan Africa continued between 1970 and 2000 (United Nations, 2013, p. 60).

During the 2000s, it was argued that urban governance is a multifaceted, spatially organized entity with the primary aim of attaining social, economic, or political objectives. It achieves these goals by utilizing funds allocated from higher authorities or generated through its income streams, while also overseeing and supervising all public services delivered to the local population (Wilson & Game 2006). Not even fifteen years into the current millennium (2000-2014), the proportion of the world's urban population living in slums has decreased by twenty percent. In addition, compared to the rate of urban population increase, the rate of new development and building has remained incredibly low. As a result, during this time, the population in slums increased from 807 million to 883 million (United Nations, 2019, p. 4).

Globally, the majority of people living in slums are located in three regions: East and Southeast Asia (332 million), Central and South Asia (197 million), and sub-Saharan Africa (189 million) (United Nations, 2018a, p. 9). The risk of natural disasters including drought, floods, earthquakes, landslides, etc. is currently present in 60 percent of cities with a population of at least 300,000, and this percentage is rising daily (United Nations, 2018, p. 9). The success of moving toward an environmentally sustainable future will depend on how cities expand in the future and how land and other natural resources are allocated in response. In some places, poorly planned or unmanaged urban growth is hastening the spread of pollution and environmental deterioration as well as unsustainable patterns of consumption and production (Cömertler, 2020, p. 91).

Redesigning the laws governing metropolitan governments and all levels of municipalities is necessary to improve their contributions to national development. A development-oriented approach should emphasize economic growth, sustainability, environmental protection, and social welfare. To effectively realize the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda, there must be a deeper, unified collaboration among national, regional, and local governments. This partnership should be rooted in well-established systems that also allow for adaptability and innovation (United Nations, 2022, p. 247).

The literature on urbanization in Türkiye can be divided into three main periods: Firstly, until the 1950s, there were changes in the cities in terms of modernization and provision of physical infrastructure, while in the 1950s, as a result of the mechanization in agriculture, it is observed that

there were intensive migrations from rural to urban areas and that these migrations changed the structure of the city itself. Secondly, by the 1980s, it was known that the urban population was now higher than the rural population. Changes in economic policies and the increase in economic investment opportunities in the cities were also effective in the change of the urban structure. In the following period, cities were exposed to the effects of globalization. Especially in the 2000s, being a center of attraction has become an important issue for many cities (Genç et al., 2021, p. 53-56).

In Türkiye, a country where development plans are made by the central government, metropolitan governments act as secondary actors in urban development. There are Regional Development Agencies as an element related to development. These agencies are public institutions working under the coordination of the Ministry of Industry and Technology. Five per thousand of the budget revenues of metropolitan governments are sent to Regional Development Agencies to fund these agencies (Bakanlar Kurulu Kararı, 2168, 2011). However sustainable development of cities and quality of life are among the priorities of today's local governments (Durguter, 2012).

6. The Influence of Regulations on Organizational Functioning

Regulations, in essence, serve as structured guidelines that organizations are mandated to follow. These can be likened to the rules of a structured game: necessary for ensuring fairness, consistency, and ethical behavior. In this case, we should ask this question: How do legal regulations reshape organizational processes?

Such a question can be answered under 4 headings in the shortest form: *1. Credibility and Trust:* Compliance with regulations often boosts stakeholder confidence. Much like a player who follows game rules is respected, an organization that adheres to regulations is deemed trustworthy. *2. Financial Effects:* Non-compliance comes with financial risks. Similar to penalties in a game, organizations can face fines or legal actions for regulatory breaches. *3. Strategic Choices:* The regulatory environment can sway organizational strategy. Just as game strategies adapt based on rule changes, company decisions might pivot based on regulatory shifts. *4. Human Capital and Skill Development:* The need to navigate a complex regulatory landscape can influence hiring and training decisions within organizations.

In summary, regulations, grounded in their legal frameworks, profoundly shape organizational behaviors and strategies. They don't merely act as constraints but also as guiding principles that ensure organizations function responsibly and ethically within the broader industry context.

The main legal bases for local governments in Türkiye are the Metropolitan Municipality Law No. 5216 enacted in 2004 and the Municipal Law No. 5393 enacted in 2005. An analysis of these two laws reveals that the word "development" appears only twice in both laws. The word "development" appears in two places in the Metropolitan Municipality Law No. 5216: "The infrastructure coordination center combines the draft programs to be made by public institutions and organizations and private organizations for infrastructure investments to be made within the metropolitan area by the development plan and annual programs and turns them into final programs..." and "To ensure the protection of the environment, agricultural areas, and water basins by the principle of sustainable development...".

Again in Municipal Law No. 5393: "The mayor shall prepare and submit to the municipal council a strategic plan by the development plan and program and, if any, the regional plan, and an annual performance program before the beginning of the relevant year, within six months after the general elections for local administrations. " and "The city council tries to realize the principles of sustainable

development, sensitivity to the environment, social assistance and solidarity, transparency, accountability and accountability, participation and decentralization in urban life."

In both laws, the word development appears as a secondary element rather than a primary element, such as performing certain tasks and definitions according to development plans or realizing them within the framework of the principle of sustainable development. This is a deficiency in Türkiye, especially when compared to the job descriptions of local governments in developed democracies.

CONCLUSION:

All public institutions and organizations are based on legal legislation. When we look at the legislation of municipalities, the most basic local government organization in Türkiye, it is clear that there is no development-based legislation. In the Metropolitan Municipality Law, the word "development" appears only in two places and in a secondary sense. It is hoped that this observation will shed light on future studies on how Türkiye's metropolitan governance can be developed in a development-based manner.

The process of urbanization is recognized as a dynamic one that transfers people from rural to urban locations and turns previously rural areas into urban areas. Significant changes in vocations, lives, and cultural views result from this process. As cities become hubs for business, innovation, and trade, urbanization and economic development are intimately related. It has historically been a driving force for advancing human development, reducing poverty, and fostering economic progress. But urbanization also brings problems, such as the fast spread of environmental damage, waste, and ways of living that aren't good for the environment. Urban growth that isn't well controlled or planned can hurt the environment and slow down sustainable development. Communities must prioritize sustainability, excellent spatial and urban planning, and the wise use of their land and natural resources.

In Türkiye, the central government makes most of the plans for urban development. This means that local governments don't have as much of an impact on urban development or sustainable development. There isn't a strong focus on growth in the laws that control local government institutions, especially metropolitan governments. The idea of development is only mentioned in a secondary way, which shows that the method needs to be more focused on sustainable development.

To sum up, urban governance and sustainable development work hand in hand to address both present and impending challenges of cities comprehensively. The cornerstone of realizing sustainable development objectives is robust urban governance. Within the existing legal boundaries, it appears challenging for city administrations in Türkiye to assume a pivotal and augmented role in driving sustainable growth.

In conclusion, this study emphasizes the need to rethink cities and governance for sustainable growth. A holistic strategy that incorporates economic, social, and environmental factors into urban planning and decision-making is needed. Cities may become dynamic, inclusive, and resilient areas that improve inhabitants' well-being and advance the nation through prioritizing sustainable development. If metropolitan governments and all levels of municipalities in Türkiye are to play a more effective role in development, their legislation should be modified to be development-oriented. It is necessary to update the relevant legislation on this basis to ensure that the urban governance adventure of the republic, which is living its centenary year, can reach many more centuries by experiencing a more sustainable experience.

Compliance with Ethical Standards

Conflict of Interests: *There is no conflict of interest between the authors or any third-party individuals or institutions*

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